

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing Of Claims:

1-13. (Canceled)

14. (New) A method for processing at least one workpiece according to an electrochemical processing, comprising:

applying a voltage between at least one electrode and the at least one workpiece, so that, for one of a removal and a deposit of a material, a current flows between the at least one electrode and the at least one workpiece, through the medium;

increasing the voltage for the processing of the at least one workpiece, the voltage being increased via a ramp to a predefined value; and

monitoring the current.

15. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, wherein:
the medium includes an electrolyte solution.

16. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, wherein the increasing includes:
after the voltage attains the predefined value, increasing the voltage to a higher value via the ramp.

17. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising:
after the voltage attains the predefined value, lowering the voltage to a lower value via the ramp.

18. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, wherein:
after attaining the predefined value, the voltage is one of increased to a higher value via the ramp and lowered to a lower value via the ramp in such a way that an essentially constant current characteristic is obtained.

19. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising:
specifying a voltage characteristic during processing;
measuring the current; and
comparing the current to at least one predefined range formed by a lower limit value and an upper limit value.
20. (New) The method as recited in Claim 19, further comprising:
stopping the processing if the measured current is outside the at least one predefined range.
21. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising:
comparing a current measured one of toward and at an end of processing to a second predefined range that is smaller than a range specified during processing.
22. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising:
comparing the current to a specified range at an end of a test procedure; and
stopping the processing when the specified range is one of exceeded and not attained.
23. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, wherein:
the at least one workpiece includes a plurality of workpieces, and
the plurality of workpieces is processed in parallel and the current through each workpiece is measured.
24. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, wherein:
the at least one electrode is not moved relative to the at least one workpiece during processing.
25. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising:
comparing the current to a specified range during a test procedure.
26. (New) The method as recited in Claim 25, further comprising:
abandoning the processing when the specified range is one of exceeded and not attained.

27. (New) The method as recited in Claim 14, further comprising:
prior to increasing the voltage, implementing a test procedure using a test voltage.